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16 OFFICE

BLANK ROME, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff TONGLI SHIPPING CO. LTD. Jack A. Greenbaum (JG 0039) The Chrysler Building 405 Lexington Ave. New York, NY 10174-0208 (212) 885-5000

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TONGLI SHIPPING CO. LTD.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

SEOUL MARINE SERVICE CO. LTD. and SMS INVESTMENT CO. S.A.,

Defendants.

06 Civ.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, TONGLI SHIPPING CO. LTD.. ("Plaintiff"), by its attorneys Blank Rome, LLP, complaining of the above-named Defendants, SEOUL MARINE SERVICE CO. LTD. ("SEOUL MARINE") and SMS INVESTMENT CO. S.A. ("SMS" and, sometimes, collectively with SEOUL MARINE, "Defendants"), alleges upon information and belief as follows:

- 1. This is a case of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, as hereinafter more fully appears, and is an admiralty or maritime claim within the meaning of Rule 9(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court has admiralty jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1333.
- 2. At all material times, Plaintiff was and now is a foreign company with its offices in Yantai, P. R. China.
- 3. At all material times, SEOUL MARINE was a corporation or other business entity organized and existing under the laws of Korea or another foreign nation, with its offices

at Rm 1501 Jeil Bldg., 256-13, Gonduk-Dong, Mapo-Gu, Seoul, Korea 121-758, and no office or place of business in the United States.

- 4. At all material times, SMS was a corporation or other business entity organized and existing under the laws of Panama, with its office c/o SEOUL MARINE at the aforesaid address, and no office or place of business in the United States.
- 5. At all material times, SMS was the registered owner of the ocean going vessel M/V GLOBAL TIANJIN.
- 6. At all material times, SEOUL MARINE was the manager of the M/V GLOBAL TIANJIN on behalf of SMS.
- 7. By a charter party dated July 21, 2006 ("the Charter"), Plaintiff time-chartered the Vessel from SEOUL MARINE for one time-charter trip from Korea to Chinese or other Southeast Asian ports, and redelivery in the Hochimin/Singapore range.
- 8. In the course of performance of the Charter, Plaintiff over-paid hire and/or other charges in the amount of US\$28,000, which SEOUL MARINE undertook to repay by October 31, 2006. However, said amount has not been repaid, despite due demand.
- 9. SEOUL MARINE entered into the charter party on its own behalf and/or as managing agent for SMS. Therefore, either SEOUL MARINE or SMS or both are liable to Plaintiff for the repayment of the overpayment of US\$28,000, plus interest and costs.
- 10. Additionally, SEOUL MARINE, as managing agent for SMS, maintains custody and control of SMS' funds and originates and receives transfers of SMS' funds albeit in SEOUL MARINE's name.
- 11. The Charter provided for arbitration of disputes in Hong Kong. Plaintiff reserves it right to arbitrate the disputes, pursuant to 9 U.S.C. § 8.

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- 12. Maritime Arbitrators in Hong Kong award interest, legal fees and arbitral costs to a successful party. Plaintiff estimates that interest recoverable costs exceed the principal amount of the claim. Therefore, Plaintiff requests that Process of Maritime Attachment and Garnishment be issued for twice the principal amount of the claim, or <u>US\$56,000</u>, pursuant to Rule E (5)(a)(i) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims.
- 13. Defendants cannot be found within this district within the meaning of Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, but Defendants are believed to have or will have during the pendency of this action, assets within this district consisting of cash, funds, freight, hire credits in the hands of garnishees in this District, including but not limited to electronic fund transfers.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays:

- A. That process in due form of law issue against the Defendants, citing them to appear and answer under oath all and singular the matters alleged in the Complaint;
- B. That since the Defendants cannot be found within this District pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, this Court issue an Order directing the Clerk of Court to issue Process of Maritime Attachment and Garnishment pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, attaching all of Defendants' tangible or intangible property or any other funds held by any garnishee in the district which are due and owing or otherwise the property of to the Defendant up to the amount of \$56,000 to secure the Plaintiff's claims, and that all persons claiming any interest in the same be cited to appear and pursuant to Supplemental Admiralty Rule B answer the matters alleged in the Complaint;

- That this Court retain jurisdiction over this matter through the entry of a judgment C. on the aforesaid arbitration award.
- That Plaintiff may have such other, further and different relief as may be just and D. proper.

Dated: New York, NY November 22, 2006

> Respectfully submitted, BLANK ROME, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff TONGLI SHIPPING CO. LTD.

Mack A. Greenbaum (JG 0039)

The Chrysler Building 405 Lexington Ave.

New York, NY 10174-0208

(212) 885-5000

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK) : ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

Jack A. Greenbaum, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am a member of the bar of this Honorable Court and of the firm of Blank Rome LLP, attorneys for the Plaintiff.
 - 2. I have read the foregoing Complaint and I believe the contents thereof are true.
- 3. The reason this Verification is made by deponent and not by Plaintiff is that Plaintiff is a foreign corporation, no officer or director of which is within this jurisdiction.
- 4. The sources of my information and belief are documents provided to me and statements made to me by representatives of the Plaintiff.

Jack A. Greenbaum

Sworn to before me this 22nd day of November 2006

Notary Public

ELAINE BONOWITZ

Notary Public, State of New York

No. 43-4893320

Qualified in Richmond County

Certificate Filed in New York County

Commission Expires May 11, 20

BLANK ROME, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff TONGLI SHIPPING CO. LTD. Jack A. Greenbaum (JG 0039) The Chrysler Building 405 Lexington Ave. New York, NY 10174-0208 (212) 885-5000

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TONGLI SHIPPING CO. LTD.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

SEOUL MARINE SERVICE CO. LTD. and SMS INVESTMENT CO. S.A.,

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AFFIDAVIT UNDER
SUPPLEMENTAL RULE B

STATE OF NEW YORK)

COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

JACK A. GREENBAUM, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a member of the Bar of this Honorable Court and a member of the firm of Blank Rome, LLP, attorneys for the Plaintiff herein. I am familiar with the circumstances of the complaint and submit this affidavit in support of Plaintiff's request for the issuance of process of maritime attachment and garnishment of the property of defendants SEOUL MARINE SERVICE CO. LTD. and SMS INVESTMENT CO. S.A., ("Defendants"), foreign corporations, pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

- 2. Defendants are parties to a maritime contract of charter party and a maritime agreement to obtain the release of the chartered vessel from a third party's arrest to enable her to deliver the cargo on board pursuant to Plaintiff's charter party, and are foreign corporations with their offices in Korea, with no offices for the place of business within this judicial district.
- 3. Under my supervision, my office did a search of the New York State Secretary of State, Division of Corporations, the Transportation Tickler, telephone assistance, and a general internet search.
- In our search, we did not find any listing or reference to Defendants in this 4. judicial district or the state of New York. In the circumstances, I believe Defendants cannot be found within this district.

Sworn to before me this 22nd day of November, 2006

ELAINE BONOWITZ Notary Public, State of New York No. 43-4893320 Qualified in Richmond County Certificate Filed in New York County Commission Expires May 11, 20